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## Viewing cable 06BUENOSAIRE2590, POST SUPPORTS DELAY OF HEZBOLLAH TRI-BORDER AREA

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g.

**#06BUENOSAIRE2590.**

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">06BUENOSAIRE2590</a>	<a href="#">2006-11-20 17:41</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">SECRET//NOFORN</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Buenos Aires</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1364384-el-temor-oculto-del-gobierno-a-nuevos-actos-terroristas>

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OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBU #2590/01 3241741  
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O 201741Z NOV 06 ZDK  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6527  
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE 5743  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 5596  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE 5948  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHMFISS/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHMFISS/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 002590

SIPDIS

NOFORN  
SIPDIS

NSC -- ZARATE  
TREASURY FOR TFI -- HEFFERNAN  
DHS FOR ICE -- D.THOMPSON  
STATE FOR S/CT -- NOYES  
STATE FOR WHA -- MCCARTHY/CROFT  
STATE FOR EB/ESC -- DAS SIMONS AND JEAN CLARK

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/19/2026  
TAGS: [KFTFN](#) [EFIN](#) [PTER](#) [SNAR](#) [ETTC](#) [PREL](#) [AR](#)  
SUBJECT: POST SUPPORTS DELAY OF HEZBOLLAH TRI-BORDER AREA  
TERRORIST FINANCE DESIGNATIONS

REF: A. BRASILIA 2420

[1](#)B. 11/15 JEAN CLARK EMAIL

Classified By: AMBASSADOR E.A. WAYNE FOR REASONS 1.4 (B AND D).

#### Summary

[1](#)1. (S/NF) Post understands that Treasury proposes the designation under E.O. 13224, on November 21, of nine individuals and two organizations operating in the tri-border region. Post does not object to the specific individuals and organizations that will be subject to the designation. However, Post believes that for operational and political reasons the decision and announcement should be postponed. Post believes the eventual designation of these targets would be more effective if approached on a case by case basis. Post fully supports AmEmbassy Brasilia arguments (Ref a), particularly with regards to taking into account local sensitivities, the need to coordinate with local and regional security and intelligence agencies, and the timing in relation to the early December 3 plus 1 meeting. Furthermore, we note that an announcement not coordinated with our regional partners could jeopardize ongoing DEA and SIMO operations targeting several of these individuals and organizations. Finally, this is a particularly sensitive time in Argentina following the release of the AMIA investigative report/indictment. Moving too rapidly and without coordinating the public designation of these individuals could be counterproductive and reverse the positive momentum building in recent weeks and months. While fully supporting the designations, Post recommends Treasury postpone them until they can be integrated into and coordinated with ongoing operational timetables. End Summary.

#### InterAgency Agreement to Postpone Nov. 21 Designation

[1](#)2. (S/NF) We understand from the State Department (Ref B) that Treasury is proposing to designate under E.O. 13224 on November 21, 2006, nine individuals and two organizations operating in the tri-border region in support of Hezbollah. While none of the individuals/organizations on the list is from Argentina, Post has significant equities at stake that could be jeopardized by an uncoordinated and precipitous announcement. Member agencies of Post's Law Enforcement Committee, including Legatt, DEA, SIMO, DAO, Treasury OTA, ECON, and POL sections, have contributed and cleared on the following response. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input into this process.

#### Post's Concerns with Uncoordinated Designation

[1](#)3. (S/NF) The majority of these individuals and organizations are well known to agencies at Post. We strongly support their eventual designation under E.O. 13224. However, we have serious concerns regarding the timing of the proposed designations and the lack of advance warning to our GoA interlocutors.

-- (S/NF) Ongoing enforcement operations are targeting most of the individuals and organizations listed, and publicly aligning them with terrorism and terrorist activities, without coordinating with the agencies undertaking the

operations -- or collaborating with local and regional security and intelligence services -- would jeopardize the tremendous amount of operational equities in place.

-- (S/NF) As AmEmbassy Brasilia notes (Ref A), the governments of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay deny that there is evidence of "operational acts of terrorism" in the tri-border area, and we publicly agreed with this statement in the 2005 3 plus 1 meeting communique. We also committed to "the prompt exchange of information in order to deter illegal acts." Therefore, public designation of individuals

and organizations operating in this region, and without prior notification to and discussions with the other countries involved, would be seen as a repudiation of our previous public statement, and could disrupt the early December 3 plus 1 discussions.

#### GoA Reaction and Case for Delay

14. (S/NF) There is a strong potential for political fallout locally from the sudden U.S. domestic designation of these individuals and entities. Although we do not believe the GoA would object in principle to any of the targets proposed for domestic designation, we do expect that the GoA, and particularly Argentine security and intel agencies, would object strenuously to an uncoordinated announcement. This would complicate and likely hinder future bilateral law enforcement cooperation. We argue, therefore, that the case for postponing the designations is compelling:

-- (S/NF) Delaying the designations would give Post agencies time to collaborate locally and integrate the coming designations into specific ongoing operations, and would further allow us to use the publicity to best effect. Moving forward with the designations on the current timetable would, on the contrary, contribute to souring relations with local law enforcement contacts.

-- (S/NF) In addition, there is relatively strong anti-American sentiment in Argentina, and the Kirchner administration's natural inclination is to reject U.S. pressure. Therefore, a rushed and uncoordinated designation could contribute to alienating both bilateral and public support, just as the fallout from the AMIA investigative report and indictments is aligning Argentine and U.S. interests and driving a wedge between the public and Hezbollah supported groups and activities. Not only might this play a role in undermining GoA support in the tri-border region, it could complicate our longer term effort to convince the GoA to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist group. Already some press reports have accused the GoA of being a tool of the U.S. and Israel on the AMIA case. These sentiments could easily find widespread echo if the U.S. acts unilaterally.

#### Post Comment and Recommendation

15. (S/NF) Post is extremely supportive of Treasury overall goals of designating terrorist organizations, facilitators, financiers, and inciters, and they are a crucial aspect of the overall effort to target and take down terrorist groups and individuals. However, they will be more effective if we integrate them into an overall operational plan. Specifically, if Treasury's actions are organized to coincide with takedowns, arrests, and seizures by local authorities, the impact would be much greater and further reaching. At a minimum, close consultation and coordination with local authorities will help assure much more productive results. Therefore, we invite Treasury officials to visit Argentina and the region, participate in meetings with local security and Intel forces, and discuss how to move forward with the designations -- case by case -- so that they serve as the culmination of successful, multilateral counter-terrorist operations. End Comment.

WAYNE